

IMPORTANT--READ THIS!!

**Understanding these rules & requirements is your responsibility!
Items in bold are changes for the 2025 program year!**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED!!

We need to know if you will be participating in the 2025 Youth Meat Animal Auction and Education Committee. Please complete the annual animal interest form to indicate your interest in showing so we can collect all of your information

2026 Animal Interest Form:

<https://forms.gle/uKTKMhrtC8LTHwDt7>

I. Objectives of the Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee

- A. To encourage participation in meat animal projects and appropriate record keeping.
- B. To teach a greater understanding of meat animal feeding, meat animal marketing and meat animal science.
- C. To develop pride and responsibility within a member's animal raising project(s).
- D. To recognize members who do quality work in selecting, feeding and showing their project animals by providing a marketing opportunity.

II. Marquette Co. Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee Rules Governing All Species

- A. All 4-H or FFA members or members of other youth organizations having adult leadership, who are under 20 years of age as of January 1st of the current fair year, but who are at least in 3rd grade as of January 1st of the current fair year, who are carrying on supervised project work in Beef, Sheep, Swine, Meat Goats, Rabbits and/ or Poultry, who are members in good standing belonging to one of the Marquette County Fair's recognized youth groups, OR members living in Marquette County and belonging to a youth group outside of the County may participate in the Marquette County Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee.
- B. This is a youth meat animal and education committee; therefore, all consignments to the auction must be meat animals that have participated in the youth meat animal and education committee. An auction participant can consign up to two (2) animal units to the sale as long as they are from different species/categories. All champions that meet final eligibility for sale must sell, including Reserve Champions. (Note: Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion animals are your consigned animals in that species. Therefore, the only way an exhibitor can sell more than two (2) animal units is if (s)he exhibits more than two (2) champions.)
- C. Final Eligibility For Sale shall be determined within an hour of the last show in a meeting of the following youth meat animal and education committee members: Chair/Co-Chairs, Note-Taker(s), Check-Writer(s), and the Fairboard President (designee) plus one ex-officio members -- FFA Advisor or 4-H Leader and a Species Superintendent. Decisions made by this group are final. This committee will review all sale requirements, including the following: signed agreement form; completed fair entry form; completed initial and final identification/weigh-ins; exhibited sale animal in a market class and exhibited an animal in species appropriate showmanship class; attended educational session and/or completed alternate educational session form; drug history form and required health papers on file; copy of bidder invitation letter and bidders' list on file; printed YQCA certificate on file; and acceptable final animal live grade. (Note: At time of final weigh-ins, all animals will be weighed one time across the scale. Animals not making the minimum weight will not be eligible for the auction and should be marketed directly by the exhibitor.) Also, at time of live show, animals not making minimum live grades will not be eligible for the auction.

Final Check Release Requirements: Participants must participate in set-up and/or clean-up for the auction; must submit completed market animal summary sheet by noon on Sunday of fair; must be present for animal release time; and must deliver a Thank You addressed to their buyer in a **postage-paid envelope** to the youth meat animal and education committee's mail box on the fairgrounds and picture/plaque must be delivered to the buyer after the auction. **Auction checks will be dispersed once ALL sale funds are received by the committee.**

- D. All market animals must be lambs (wethers or ewes); hogs (barrows or gilts); beef (steers or heifers); meat goats (wethers or does); meat rabbits; or meat poultry. Animals determined by species chairperson to be incomplete or late castrates, will not be allowed for auction. Animals must be castrated by initial weigh-in. (Suspected animals will require a veterinarian certificate within two weeks of weigh-in.) Steers and heifers must be dehorned.
- E. Steers, heifers, barrows, gilts, ewes, wethers, meat goats (wethers or does), rabbits and poultry must be in possession of the exhibitor by the weigh in date or identification date, whichever is first.
- F. An initial weigh-in is required of any beef, sheep, or meat goat animal intending to be sold in the auction. An exhibitor may identify/weigh, in the exhibitor's name or in the immediate family member names, the animal numbers per species listed. Then, the exhibitor may show the following animal numbers per species listed. Once an animal has walked across the scale at the final weigh in, each exhibitor must identify that animal as theirs to show, therefore no other family member may sell that animal in the auction. Auction sale orders will be determined before fair, either online or by drawing names, recorded for anyone to see, and sent out before the fair for all to proofread before printing of the sale catalog on Friday afternoon.

G. <u>ANIMAL SPECIES</u>	<u>#TO WEIGH/IDENTIFY</u>	<u>#TO SHOW per Exhibitor</u>
Beef (Steers/Heifers)	3 per exhibitor per class	1 per class
Lambs (Wethers/Ewes)	8	3
Meat Goats (Wethers/Does)	8	3

- H. Weighing is to be verified by the Species Committee. Entry Forms will be used for verifying beginning and ending weights as used in the Rate-Of-Gain Contest. The animals selected by the exhibitors will go through Final weigh in on the entry date of the fair. **Each animal will be weighed once only on a scale at the fairgrounds for this Final weigh-in at the fair.**
- I. Rate-Of-Gain –An award will be given to the individual who exhibits the animal with the greatest weight gain per day. There will be one award per species (beef, sheep, meat goat) **and each species rate-of-gain champion will sell immediately following the Master Showman in each of those species.** The rate-of-gain will be measured from the date of the official Marquette County Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee initial Weigh-In for that species and the final weigh-in at the county fair. Any animal not weighed-in at the official weigh-in is not eligible to be considered for the rate-of-gain contest. There is not a rate-of-gain contest for the swine, poultry and rabbit categories.
- J. Tags provided by the Marquette County Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee will identify steers/heifers, lambs (wethers/ewes), meat goats (wethers/does) and barrows/gilts. Identification will occur at the time of weigh in. The dates of initial weigh-ins and identification are listed under each species heading.
- K. The loss of an ear tag must be made known to the Committee or an Agricultural Instructor immediately after the loss of the tag. Upon notification, a committee member will arrange for the placement of another tag on the

exhibitor's animal.

K. Financial Records (the "Market Animal Summary Sheet"*) shall begin at weigh-in and must be maintained during the entire feeding period. These records must be completed and turned into the Youth Meat Animal and Education committee's mail box by noon on Sunday of the fair if the exhibitor wishes to receive his/her auction check(s). (***Sale Requirement**)

L. Market Animal Drug History: All Federal and State Health Regulations must be followed by Exhibitor and his/her parents or guardians. This includes the use of growth stimulants, tranquilizers, and other drugs whether injected, implanted, or included in the feed. Withdrawal times for all drugs must be followed. All beef, sheep, and swine exhibitors must complete the "Market Animal Drug History" form. The completed Market Animal Drug History Form as well as all required health papers must be turned in prior to unloading project animals on entry day of the Marquette County Fair. Any violation of this rule will result in the forfeiture of participating in future animal sales. The Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee has the final ruling. In the event the animal is not qualified for human consumption due to drugs and/or other causes, premiums and sale proceeds will be forfeited. (***Sale Requirement**)

M. A 4% Commission will be deducted from the gross sale price of each animal sold out right and a 4% commission will be deducted from the support price of each animal sold for support price. The commission is to cover costs incurred in conducting the show, sale and its promotion, and education of participants. **The support price is the difference between that day's market price per pound and the buyer's final price per pound bid at the auction.**

N. Educational Requirements: It is required that all youth exhibitors of meat animals complete TWO educational sessions. One session must be YQCA - either in-person or online. **Every exhibitor must provide a printed copy of their YQCA certificate with their paperwork.** The second session must be an Auction Committee approved educational session. As more opportunities become available, the committee will share those opportunities.

Rabbit and Poultry exhibitors must have an educational session specific to their species.

Those exhibiting rabbits, must have a rabbit educational session, Those exhibiting poultry, must have a poultry educational session. Those exhibitors that show both would need both a rabbit educational session AND a poultry educational session, in addition to YQCA.

YQCA Online or Register for an in person session if offered Find Here -> <http://yqcaprogram.org/>

Other options include the following:

a) Exhibitors participating in their 3rd year or greater of the Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee may fulfill their educational requirement by presenting a pre-approved educational session. (In order to meet the pre-approval, the older youth member **MUST** have their educational session pre-approved by the committee; have a teaching outline pre-approved by an Agricultural Instructor; have the educational session announced/advertised in advance; and have a committee member, FFA Advisor or 4-H Volunteer Leader present at the session.

b) Alternate Educational Session--youth choosing an alternate educational session must complete the alternate educational session form found on the Marquette County 4-H website and email it to the Auction Committee no later than July 1 each year for committee approval. Note: Alternate Educational Sessions that may be approved include: neighboring county meat animal educational sessions; Extension-organized species specific sessions; breed association educational meetings; a high school **or** college course pertaining to the meat animal project they will be exhibiting in (i.e., syllabus required), FFA Career Development events (CD's) that

are meat-animal related, UW-Extension's Area Animal Science Day sessions that are meat-animal related, and more.

Remember: Youth may attend more than one educational session to learn as much as possible and may be required to do so if they choose to participate in the Wisconsin State Fair.

(* **Sale Requirement**--any member not fulfilling this educational session requirement will not be allowed to sell a meat animal(s) at the annual youth meat animal auction.)

O. Showmanship Requirement: To be eligible to sell an animal(s) at the auction, the exhibitor must exhibit a species appropriate animal in the showmanship class of the species he/she will be selling in (i.e., show a beef animal in beef showmanship and you are eligible to sell a beef animal). **Master showman in each species earns the right to sell that species animal immediately following the Grand and Reserve, then followed by the rate-of-gain champion in said species. (ie., Beef Master Showman sells immediately following beef reserve champion).**

P. Bidder/Buyer Contacts & Thank Yous:

Participants must contact their buyers. Each participant must send a minimum of 5 letters to 5 separate potential buyers unless you are part of a family group (see later in this paragraph). Two of those letters should be delivered to new potential buyers. Family groups, with multiple youth in the meat animal program, should send one letter to each potential buyer from all youth in the family; however, each family group need only send a minimum of 10 letters to 10 separate potential buyers. Then, deliver one "**generic**" copy of the letter and a list of the addresses of the potential buyers contacted to the committee at the fair an hour after the last meat animal show. (***Sale Requirement**) (Note: You may want to consider including a photo of yourself on or with the invitation letters for the buyers to be able to identify you in the sale ring.)

Following the auction, participants must deliver the following (***Sale Requirement**):

- (1) a THANK YOU note/letter addressed to their buyer in a postage-paid envelope to the youth meat animal and education committee's mailbox, **found at the show barn during fair;**
- (2) the buyer picture/plaque to their buyer.

Q. Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee Set-Up, Operation, and Clean-Up Rule: At the mandatory exhibitor meeting held on Tuesday, July 14th, exhibitors and their families must sign up to complete at least one task listed at the meat animal and education committee's sign in area. Examples of tasks are as follows: sale ring set-up and clean-up; pig alley construction; photo selection, order and purchase arrangements; promo/marketing pre-fair and post-fair; auction runners; purchase and preparation of buyer frames; frame assembly and distribution; buyer appreciation dinner organization; dinner set-up and clean-up. (Again, please note that some of these tasks may be assigned prior to the fair in an effort to accomplish them.) The penalty for not participating and checking in may be 10% of the check of your highest selling animal. Signing in at the beginning of the task and staying until completion is a must. (***Sale Requirement**)

R. The exhibitor must be present at the time of release to assist in the loading of your project animal(s). Release time for all auction/meat animals will follow fair premium book rules. However, the transfer of ownership does not take place until the animal is loaded on the truck. This means the exhibitor is responsible for the well-being of the animal throughout the entire fair. If you are not present and no designated representative is present either, the penalty of holding your sale check for 60 days may be enforced. In the case of an early release of fair animals due to weather or other unforeseen special situations, special directions will be announced and/or posted about the release of meat animals. (***Sale Requirement**)

- S. Only participating exhibitors will be allowed to register complaints that are in writing and signed. These must be made through appropriate committee persons by 3:00 p.m. the following day.
- T. Anyone violating the rules established by the Marquette County Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee may be barred from the program for a minimum of one year. **NEW for 2026 - All exhibitors must have a signed CODE OF CONDUCT on file before weigh ins for beef, sheep and goats; at the time of identification of swine and at the time of fair registration for rabbits and poultry.**
- U. The interpretation of these rules and other questions shall be referred to the Marquette County Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee and their decision shall be final. However, when an immediate decision must be made, the Chairs/Co-Chairs, Note takers, and check writers of the committee will have the final ruling. Decisions made by this group can be made either face-to-face, electronically, or by telephone and are final.

V. Sale Order for 2026 will be:

1. *Lambs*
2. *Poultry*
3. *Swine*
4. *Rabbits*
5. *Beef*
6. *Meat Goats*

Rotation will be top to bottom.

Sale order in each species will be: Grand Champion; Reserve Grand Champion; Master Showman; Rate-of-Gain Champion; 3rd place overall, 4th place overall, 5th place overall; all others by computer generated site

III. Specific Market Hog Rules

- A. All market hogs (barrows and gilts) **must be born on or after December 1, 2025 (according to DATCP rules for exhibition).**
- B. **The Market Hog project begins on the initial identification date and is set for April 11, 2026. Due to the State of Wisconsin health rules related to co-mingling of swine animals, there will be no initial swine weigh-in and the Marquette County Fair will host a Terminal Swine Show. However, on or around April 12, 2025 all market barrows/gilts should weigh approximately 125# or less and it is recommended not less than 75#. Exhibitors must submit a picture of them with their Tagged animals to the google form by midnight 4/12/25. Further instructions for submitting identification documents will be released in Spring, 2025 with youth being required to pick up ear tags for their swine animals if they are not tagged, tag the animals with a Marquette County swine tag, and submit a photo of tagged animal(s) with the exhibitor.**
- C. All barrows/gilts **must** grade No. 3's. Any barrow/gilt weighing under 220# will not be permitted to sell through the auction **and any barrow/gilt weighing over 300# will sell at 300#.**
- D. The check-off amount that is designated in the National Pork Production and Research Check-Off will be deducted from the seller's check for compliance with the mandatory pork check-off. The check-off is a percentage of the market value and is designated by the National Pork Board.
- E. Market Hog Exhibitors may exhibit up to three (3) market barrows/gilts. The exhibitor must designate which barrow/gilt he/she will sell in the Youth Auction immediately after completion of the live show.
- F. All market hog exhibitors must be **YQCA** certified in order to exhibit and/or sell a market barrow/gilt. Certification must be current for returning exhibitors. A printed copy of the certification must be presented at weigh-in time at the fair and in your paperwork file. YQCA certificate is at the exhibitor's expense.

IV. Specific Market Lamb Rules

- A. All Market Lambs (wethers or ewes) must be born on or after December 1, 2025 (according to DATCP rules for exhibition).**
- B. The Market Lamb project begins on the initial weigh-in date and that is set for April 11, 2026 from 8:00 –9:30 a.m.** at the Marquette Co. Fairgrounds.
- C. All Market Lambs must grade Choice or better and weigh a minimum of 95#.
- D. Market Lamb Exhibitors may exhibit up to three (3) market lambs. The exhibitor must designate which lamb he/she will sell immediately upon completion of the live show.
- E. The check-off amount that is designated in the Sheep Promotion Research and Information Act of 1994 will be deducted from the Seller's check for compliance with the Act.

V. Specific Market Meat Goat Rules

- A. All meat goats (wethers or does) must be born on or after December 1, 2025 (according to DATCP rules for exhibition).**
- B. The meat goat project begins on the initial weigh-in date and is set for April 11, 2026 from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** at the Marquette County Fairgrounds.
- C. All Market Meat Goats must grade Choice or better and weigh a minimum of 50#.
- D. Market meat goat exhibitors may exhibit up to three (3) meat goats. The exhibitor must designate which meat goat he/she will sell immediately upon completion of the live show.

VI. Specific Market Beef Rules

- A. All market beef (steers and heifers) must be born on or after December 1, 2024 (according to DATCP rules for exhibition).** NO Beef can be sold - regardless of birth date - that does not have all of its milk teeth in place and no permanent teeth showing. The decision of the person doing the mouthing is final.



18 months - calf has 8 temporary incisors. Eligible to show.



22 months - 2 temporary incisors lost, being replaced by permanent teeth. Would be disqualified.



26 months – 2 permanent teeth in place that are 3 times the size of the temps. Disqualified.

- B. Any breed of Beef, Beef Crossbred, Dairy Beef, Crossbred and Dairy Steer or Heifer is eligible.
- C. The Market Beef project begins on the initial weigh-in date and that is set for December 13,**

2025 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. at the Marquette County fairgrounds, Westfield.

For safety sake, animals must be haltered -- No halter, no weigh in.

- D. Market Beef may be divided into equal lots using final weigh-in weights if class size warrants.
- E. All Market Beef must grade select or better and weigh a minimum of 1000# for beef type steers, 1150# for dairy steers, 950# for beef type market heifers, and 1100# for dairy market heifers. Dairy cross class with a minimum weight of 1150# for steers and 1100# for heifers. **Any Other Breed (AOB) animals to show and sell under the minimum weights (stated here in VII., E.) must be registered and may be required to be DNA tested to prove parentage.**
- F. One dollar per animal will be deducted from the seller for compliance with the mandatory National Beef Promotion and Research Check-off.
- G. Market Beef Exhibitors may exhibit one Market Beef per class. The exhibitor must designate which steer he/she will sell immediately upon completion of the live show.

VII. Rabbit and Poultry Rules

- A. Grand Champion/Best of Show & Reserve Champion/Reserve Best of Show will be selected & required to sell for both the meat animal rabbits category & the meat animal poultry category. (In other words, there will be two champions from meat animal rabbits & two champions from meat animal poultry and no more.)
- B. **Meat type rabbits must be tattooed and registered on fair entry with the correct number.** (Note: Rabbit birth weight will be “0” pounds.) **Tattoo is required!**
- C. **The Market Poultry project begins on the day of hatch for all meat type poultry animals.** (Note: Poultry hatch weight will be “0” pounds and must be verified with dated sales receipt. In lieu of a dated sales receipt, owners of self-hatched birds must provide their hatch log for their self-hatched, meat-type birds.) **Due to avian health rules and requirements, the registration/identification and blood testing process for meat type poultry animals (ducks, turkeys, geese, and chickens) is as follows:**

Meat type poultry must be registered with the fair superintendent; leg-banded; and fulfill any health requirements. “Registered” poultry project members will make arrangements with Poultry Project Leaders to have their animals registered, leg-banded, and tested. Watch for correspondence via the 4H Newsletter, e-mail, or other mailings. A fee may be assessed by the identification team for testing supplies and transportation. This registration/leg banding of meat type poultry animals must be completed by June 15th and within 90 days of the show.

- D. Market Rabbits and Poultry will be exhibited by age and/or weight based on fair premium list entry lots. Poultry animals must meet all health test requirements and/or have necessary health certificates (for example, NPIP certificate; DATCP-issued certificate; pullorum-typhoid test; or mycoplasma gallisepticum test--turkeys). Check health requirements in the fair premium list for specifics each year.
- E. **The exhibitor must designate which meat rabbit unit or poultry unit he/she will sell immediately upon completion of that species’ live show.**

Reviewed 10/22/2025 by Marquette County Fair Youth Meat Animal and Education Committee